



# ASSEMBLYMEMBER NICOLE PARRA

Representing the 30th Assembly District



## Parra Notes

August 11, 2006

Hello Friends:

### **WEEKLY HIGHLIGHT**

In an effort to bring an awareness of the issues that face **California**, I hosted the **2nd Annual Valley Leadership Institute (VLI)** this week, which was held in **Sacramento** from August 7-10.

The purpose of the Institute is to promote interest in the formation of public policy, to provide meaningful access to decision makers, and to help facilitate a working network of leaders in the **30th Assembly District**.

It incorporated meetings and seminars for citizens from the **30th Assembly District** to learn about the democratic process, meet local government officials and learn about key issues facing the **Central Valley**. Participants met with experts in their respective fields and gained a solid understanding of how state government functions and operates.

*Some of the individuals VLI participants met with included:*

- **Senator Liz Figueroa**
- **Assemblywoman Cindy Montañez**
- **Assemblyman Juan Arambula**
- **Fred Aguiar, Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor**
- **A.G. Kawamura, Secretary, Department of Food and Agriculture**
- **Mike Chrisman, Secretary, Resources Agency**
- **Mac Taylor, Legislative Analysts Office**
- **Curt Augustine, Business, Transportation and Housing Agency**
- **Tom Higgins, Legislative Director, Assemblywoman Nicole Parra**
- **Steve Maviglio, Deputy Chief of Staff, Speak Fabian Nuñez**
- **Elaine Trevino, Capitol Strategies**
- **Dominic Dimare, CA Chamber of Commerce**
- **Jay Hansen, State Building and Construction Trades Council**
- **Louie Brown, Kahn, Soares and Conway**
- **Keith Dunn, CELSOC**
- **Bob Crouch, Senior Vice President, Wells Fargo Bank**
- **Bev Hansen, Lang, Hansen O'Malley and Miller**
- **Harriet Salarno, Crime Victims United**

This was a tremendous lineup of speakers and I feel this year's **VLI participants** will take home a great deal of knowledge and a lot of ideas that will benefit their communities. I am already looking forward to next year's **VLI!!!**

**NOW TO THE REST OF MY WEEK IN SACRAMENTO**

This week, members of the **Senate and the Assembly were back in Session** to continue working on their legislative packages. I presented three bills this week, in the Senate Appropriations Committee, and we will find out the outcome of those bills next week, once the committee begins working on its suspense file and takes its vote. These bills are:

- **AB 2045** would establish an exception that would authorize the State Allocation Board to approve a supplemental apportionment of up to 5% of the cost of a project in order to ensure that all minimum essential facilities, as defined, are included in the project. This bill would permit the State Allocation Board to approve the supplemental apportionment if it determines that the apportionment would cover cost increases that are beyond the control of the school district. The bill also would require a school district to retain in the county fund any savings achieved by the efficient and prudent expenditure of specified school facilities funds, for expenditure by the district for other high priority capital outlay purposes. **AB 2045 is being supported by Kern County Superintendent of Schools (co-sponsor), the Small School Districts' Association (co-sponsor), the California Association of School Business Officials, the Central Valley Education Coalition, and the Los Banos Unified School District.**
- **AB 2143** would include State Highway Route 43, which runs through the counties of Kings, Kern, Fresno and Tulare, as an eligible interregional and inter-county route. This would allow for highway improvements that would relieve traffic congestion and improve air quality in the Central Valley. **The Kings County Association of Governments (sponsor) and the Consulting Engineers & Land Surveyors of California (CELSOC) are supporting AB 2143.**
- **AB 2333**, which would make the possession of identifying information of 10 or more individuals, with the intent to defraud, an alternate misdemeanor-felony offense, punishable by imprisonment in a state prison for 16 months, 2 years, or 3 years, or by imprisonment in a county jail not to exceed one year, or by a fine not to exceed \$1,000, or by both imprisonment and fine. **AB 2333 is supported by the California District Attorneys Association, California Credit Union League, California Narcotic Officers' Association, and Coalition for Quality Credit Counseling.**

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Also this week, I was pleased to announce the **passage of AB 31 from the Senate Business, Professions, and Economic Development Committee** by a vote of 3-1. **AB 31 would place the Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley in statute for a minimum of five years and provide access for the Partnership to a budgeted funding source of \$5 million.**

This is a monumental victory for the people of the Central Valley. The extension of the *Partnership* and these additional monies will allow the critical work of this group to continue. Already, the *Partnership* has proven its worth and validity, when **its members played an instrumental role in helping to secure the \$1 billion dedication in the transportation bond for Highway 99.**

Earlier this year, a Senate subcommittee cut the initially proposed \$5 million for the *Partnership*, in the May Revision, to \$1.25 million. However, at a subsequent hearing of the Assembly Budget Subcommittee Number 4, **Assemblywoman Parra**, along with **Assemblymen Juan Arambula and Michael Villines**, voted to reinstate the proposed funding. Assemblywoman Parra also co-signed a letter urging the committee to re-consider the decision to keep these critical monies from the *Partnership*. As a result, the Assembly Budget Subcommittee later included specifically earmarked funding for the *Partnership* in the budget. However, the approved budget control language stipulates that this funding cannot be drawn down until the Partnership adopts a strategic action proposal and has a continued governance and organizational structure in place. **AB 31** would place this governance structure in statute and, due to its urgency clause, allow for the *Partnership* to immediately begin accessing these funds and would also extend its existence to January 1, 2012.

The issues facing the Valley did not develop overnight, and they certainly will not be solved in a short

time. **AB 31** gives us the time and the financial support we need to continue fighting for the Valley. It will be important for the members of the *Partnership* to really come together over the long haul, and put in a concerted and sustained effort to address these problems.

Following Assemblywoman Parra's initial introduction of **AB 31**, on December 6, 2004, **Governor Schwarzenegger issued Executive Order S-5-05**, which launched the *Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley* on June 24, 2005. That executive order ends the *Partnership* on November 1, 2006. The *Partnership* is a working group of state agency secretaries and Central Valley business and civic representatives, who serve as a group of advisors, offering recommendations to the Governor about proposals aimed at improving the economic health of the Valley and the quality of life issues facing its residents.

I also met with representatives from the **Union Pacific railroad company** to discuss a number of their legislative issues and priorities. We specifically discussed a number of bills, currently moving through the process, in both the Senate and the Assembly, and how these bills would impact the railroad industry.

To learn more about **Union Pacific** and their operations, please visit their web site at [www.up.com/](http://www.up.com/)

**Arlene Peterson-Dare**, the **Director for Legislative Advocacy at the Western Center on Law and Poverty**, also paid me a visit during the week to have a conversation about a number of pieces of legislation the **Center** is monitoring.

If you would like to find out more about the **Western Center on Law and Poverty**, please visit their web site [www.wclp.org/](http://www.wclp.org/)

I had the opportunity to also spend some time meeting with **representatives from Tulare County**, which included **Supervisors Allen Ishida and Steve Worthley, County Administrative Officer, Brian Haddix**, and the **county's legislative advocate, Paul Yoder**. We had a very informative conversation about some of the issues going on in Tulare County and other legislative and budgetary matters.

If you would like to find out more about what's going on in **Tulare County**, please access their web site <http://www.co.tulare.ca.us/>

Later in the week, **I hosted my fourth conference call, this year, with my agricultural advisory group**. I provided them with an update on legislative and budget issues. We discussed a lot of the major agricultural issues facing the Valley, including livestock and crop losses as a result of the extreme heat we have been experiencing. This was a very helpful call, because it allowed us to isolate some problems and issues that we can come together on and correct.

Earlier today, I **sat with a number of community leaders, including Joe Cardona, from the City of Earlimart to catch up on the goings-on in that community**. Also in attendance were a number of board members from the **Rural Foundation for Community Advancement**, which works to improve the economic well-being of the **Earlimart** community and surrounding areas. The Foundation has several focuses, which include: 1) helping the disadvantaged & minorities; 2) providing recreation activities for youths, adults and seniors; and 3) assisting with employment and education needs for farm workers.

This was a fantastic meeting, and I would like to thank the group for providing me with a very helpful insight on what's new in **Earlimart**.

Also today, I sat down with the **Goshen Planning Committee Community District** and local representatives from **Community, Services, Employment, and Training (CSET)**. I offered the group a detailed update on my legislative package and some important points of note in this year's budget for

the Central Valley. This meeting also gave me the chance to receive some updates regarding Goshen, specifically focusing on the rapid growth the city is currently going through.

After returning to my Hanford office, I met with **Laura Dennison, Bill Decker, Gary Frey, Margaret Navarett, and Al Hernandez** to discuss a number of **health care issues** and pieces of health care legislation, but we specifically focused the issue of single payer health care. This was a very informative meeting and I look forward to continuing my work on health care related issues.

**Tonight, I will be spending some time with residents from Corcoran at a community movie night, which promises to be a whole lot of fun.** I really want to encourage interested residents to bring their lawn chairs and join us for free music and a movie at this fabulous event **I am co-sponsoring with the Corcoran Chamber of Commerce.**

#### **HELPFUL LINKS**

Operation Hero Miles  
<http://www.heromiles.org/>  
Care Packages for Soldiers  
<http://anysoldier.com/>

#### **County Information:**

Fresno  
<http://www.co.fresno.ca.us/portal/>  
Kings  
<http://www.countyofkings.com/>

Kern  
<http://www.co.kern.ca.us/>  
Tulare  
<http://www.co.tulare.ca.us/>

#### **City Information:**

Coalinga  
[www.coalinga.com](http://www.coalinga.com)  
Kingsburg  
[www.cityofkingsburg-ca.gov/](http://www.cityofkingsburg-ca.gov/)  
Corcoran  
<http://www.cityofcorcoran.com/>  
Lemoore  
<http://www.lemoore.com/>  
Bakersfield  
<http://www.bakersfieldcity.us/>  
McFarland  
<http://www.mcfarlandcity.org/>  
Wasco  
<http://www.ci.wasco.ca.us/>

Huron  
[www.fresnocog.org/city1/city\\_of\\_huron.htm](http://www.fresnocog.org/city1/city_of_huron.htm)  
Avenal  
<http://www.avenalcalifornia.com/>  
Hanford  
<http://www.ci.hanford.ca.us/>  
Arvin  
<http://www.arvin.org/>  
Delano  
<http://www.delano-ca.org/default.htm>  
Shafter  
<http://www.shafter.com/>

#### **NEED HOMEWORK HELP?**

The **California State Library** has made available through their website a new service called **Live Homework Help**. This service enables students to connect on-line with a tutor for assistance with homework questions. Supported by Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) federal funding, students can access Live Homework Help through [28 California public libraries](#). It is important to note that the tutors who respond to student questions are screened, trained, and closely monitored.

**Live Homework Help** is easy! Log on to <http://www.Kerncountylibrary.org> from your computer any time between 1:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. and follow the simple setup instructions.

#### **MEETING REQUESTS**

If you or your organization would like to set up a time to meet with me or would like for me to attend an event you are sponsoring, please feel free to contact my **Executive Secretary Anna Goddard** at

(916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at [Anna.Goddard@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Anna.Goddard@asm.ca.gov).

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**INTERNS WANTED**

I am accepting applications for the internship program in my **Hanford, Bakersfield** and **Sacramento** offices. Candidates should be residents of the **30th Assembly District**, possess solid research and communication skills, and have a strong interest in public policy and political issues facing the **Central Valley**. Applications can be found by going to:  
<http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30>.

For Hanford office internships contact **Richard Valle** at **(559) 585-7170** or by e-mail at [Richard.Valle@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Richard.Valle@asm.ca.gov).

For Bakersfield office internships contact **Nerissa Robinson** at **(661) 334-3745** or by e-mail at [Nerissa.Robinson@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Nerissa.Robinson@asm.ca.gov)

For Sacramento office internships contact **Brandon Sanders** at **(916) 319-2030** or by e-mail at [Brandon.Sanders@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Brandon.Sanders@asm.ca.gov).

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